

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

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**Dave Heineman**  
*Governor*



**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**John Falgione**  
*Fire Marshal*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
DATE: MARCH 10, 2010  
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## CHANGING TIMES, NEED FOR ALARM

In today's changing times there is one item that has the potential to impact every home. Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association show that smoke alarms appeared in 69% of all reported home fires but only operated 47% of the time. 63% of home fire deaths occurred in homes that either failed to have smoke alarms, or where smoke alarms were not working.

Nebraska State Fire Marshal John Falgione reminds you, "Death rates are twice as high in homes without working smoke alarms."

Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home that are less than ten years old. (This applies to all household fire alarms.)

Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.

If your alarms are battery operated or hardwired with battery backup; remember this weekend, "Change your batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clock. Don't wait for the low battery chirp." (An exception to the battery replacement rule would be when your smoke alarms have ten year batteries in them or are sealed units.)

Use **ONLY** the batteries listed for use with your smoke alarm. (A list providing **NAME BRAND** and **MODEL NUMBER** of compatible batteries should be found on the alarm near the battery compartment.)

Take time to clean your smoke alarm in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Protect yourself and your family. "With 31% of reported home fires not having any smoke alarm, isn't it time we all get alarmed?"

**Abstract:** Almost all households in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, smoke alarms were present in only two-thirds (69%) of all reported home fires and operated in just under half (47%) of the reported home fires. ("Homes" includes one- and two-family homes, apartments, and manufactured housing.) Forty percent of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while 23% resulted from homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.

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